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Groups of countries in special situations: follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Arthur Andambi (Kenya), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/71/L.27

Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024,[1] adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014, at which all relevant stakeholders expressed their commitment to the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action of addressing the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from their landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner and thus contributing to an enhanced rate of sustainable and inclusive growth, which can contribute to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty,

Recalling its resolutions 70/197 and 70/217 of 22 December 2015,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest

[1] Resolution 69/137, annexes I and II.

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global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development and its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in 2012, entitled "The future we want",[2]

Recalling also the Sendai Declaration and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,[3] while recognizing that landlocked developing countries face some specific disaster risk challenges, and reiterating the commitment to addressing disaster risk reduction and building resilience to disasters within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[4] and its early entry into force, encouraging all parties to the Agreement to fully implement it, and encouraging parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[5] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Recognizing the specific needs and special circumstances of developing country parties to the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, as provided for in the Convention,

Noting with appreciation the launch of the Global Infrastructure Forum, led by the multilateral development banks, in Washington, D.C., on 16 April 2016,

Noting the Global Sustainable Transport Conference, to be held in Ashgabat on 26 and 27 November 2016,

Recalling Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolutions 700 (XXXVI) and 711 (XXXVI) and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 71/3, and taking note of resolution 934 (XLVIII) adopted by the eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development,

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[2] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[3] Resolution 69/283, annexes I and II.

[4] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

Recalling also the Almaty Declaration[6] and the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[7] the first programme of action for the landlocked developing countries,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets and high transit costs and risks, continues to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and the domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affects their overall growth and socioeconomic development,

Recognizing also that the primary responsibility for establishing effective transit systems rests with landlocked and transit developing countries,

Acknowledging the importance of promoting collaboration between landlocked developing countries and transit countries on the basis of common interest, and noting that collaboration efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national priorities, while remaining consistent with international rules and commitments,

Recognizing the need to promote both public and private investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technologies, as well as recognizing the special vulnerabilities and needs of landlocked developing countries,

Stressing the importance of the participation and contribution of landlocked developing countries to Expo 2017, to be held in Astana, focusing on the theme "Future energy",

Acknowledging the need to promote meaningful regional integration to encompass cooperation among countries and the importance of enhancing existing transport infrastructure facilities for the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action,

Reaffirming that achieving food security and improving nutrition, ensuring healthy lives, ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls are important for achieving sustainable development, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing that the Vienna Programme of Action, which is integral to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is based on renewed and strengthened partnerships for accompanying landlocked developing countries in harnessing benefits from international trade, structurally transforming their economies and achieving more inclusive and sustainable growth,

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[6] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex II.

[7] Ibid., annex I.

Taking note of the Livingstone Call for Action for the Accelerated Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries, the communiqué of the Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries held on the margins of the Tenth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization in Nairobi on 16 December 2015, the declaration adopted at the Fifth Meeting of Trade Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Geneva on 23 and 24 June 2016, the communiqué of the Fifteenth Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, held in New York on 22 September 2016, and the ministerial declaration adopted at the High-level Meeting on Sustainable Transport of Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Santa Cruz, Plurinational State of Bolivia, on 13 and 14 October 2016,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024;[9]

2. *Welcomes* the recognition of the special needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[10] and in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,[10] and affirms that the effective implementation of those outcomes, together with the six priority areas of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024,[11] can drive the social and economic progress of landlocked developing countries and assist in their transformation from landlocked to land-linked countries;

3. *Recalls* paragraph 11 of its resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013, and stresses that the concerns and specific challenges of landlocked developing countries should be given consideration, as appropriate, in the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

4. *Recognizes* that landlocked developing countries face specific challenges in their efforts towards the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, and the pursuit of sustainable development, and in this regard underscores the importance of continued international support to complement the efforts of landlocked developing countries;

5. *Invites* the landlocked developing countries, transit countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to implement at all levels the relevant actions that have been agreed upon in the Vienna Programme of Action in its six priority areas, namely: fundamental transit policy issues; infrastructure development and maintenance; international trade and trade facilitation; regional integration and cooperation; structural economic transformation; and means of implementation, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner;

6. *Invites* development partners to provide targeted technical and financial support, as appropriate, towards the implementation of the specific actions listed in the Vienna Programme of Action;

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[9] A/71/313.

[10] Resolution 70/1.

[11] Resolution 69/313, annex.

[12] Resolution 69/137, annex II.

7. *Invites* Member States to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies in order to ensure its effective implementation;

8. *Appreciates* the efforts made by Member States and other development partners, including the governing bodies of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, inter alia, to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action;

9. *Recalls* the outcome of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,[12] held in Nairobi from 17 to 22 July 2016, and encourages the Conference to help to address the needs of landlocked developing countries, consistent with the Nairobi Maafikiano;[13]

10. *Stresses* that the harmonization, simplification and standardization of rules and documentation should be promoted, including the full and effective implementation of international conventions on transport and transit and bilateral, subregional and regional agreements, stresses also that cooperation on fundamental transit policies, laws and regulations between landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours is crucial for the effective and integrated solution of cross-border trade and transit transport problems, and underlines that this cooperation should be promoted on the basis of the mutual interests of both landlocked developing countries and transit countries;

11. *Recognizes* the importance of addressing the special needs of landlocked developing countries, inter alia, by establishing and promoting efficient transit transport systems, including roads, railroads and inland waterways, that link landlocked developing countries to international markets, and reaffirms that the Vienna Programme of Action constitutes a fundamental framework for genuine partnerships between landlocked and transit developing countries and their development partners at the national, bilateral, subregional, regional and global levels;

12. *Invites* landlocked developing countries and transit countries to consider ratifying, as appropriate, relevant international trade and transport facilitation conventions;[14]

13. *Underlines* that infrastructure development plays a key role in reducing the cost of development for landlocked developing countries and that the development and maintenance of transit transport infrastructure, information and communications technology and energy infrastructure are crucial for landlocked

[12] See TD/519 and Add.1 and 2.

[13] TD/519/Add.2.

[14] Including the Customs Convention on Containers (Geneva, 2 December 1972), the Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles (Geneva, 18 May 1956), the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (Geneva, 14 November 1975), the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (Geneva, 21 October 1982) and the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation (2013).

developing countries in order to reduce high trading costs, improve their competitiveness and become fully integrated in the global market;

14. *Stresses* that the magnitude of the resources required to invest in infrastructure development and maintenance remains a major challenge and requires the forging of international, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation on infrastructure projects, the allocation of more resources from national budgets, the effective deployment of international development assistance and multilateral financing in the development and maintenance of infrastructure and strengthening of the role of the private sector, and recognizes that both public and private investment have key roles to play in infrastructure financing, including through development banks, development finance institutions and tools and mechanisms such as public-private partnerships, blended finance, which combines concessional public finance, non-concessional private finance and expertise from the public and private sector, special-purpose vehicles, non-recourse project financing, risk mitigation instruments and pooled funding structures;

15. *Calls upon* the landlocked developing countries and transit countries, in a coordinated manner, to develop and upgrade international transport and transit corridors encompassing all modes of transportation, such as inland waterways, roads, rail networks, ports and pipelines, to address the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries;

16. *Acknowledges* that impediments to private investment in infrastructure exist on both the supply and the demand side and that insufficient investment is due in part to inadequate infrastructure plans and an insufficient number of well-prepared investable projects, along with private sector incentive structures that are not necessarily appropriate for investing in many long-term projects, and risk perceptions of investors, encourages landlocked developing countries to embed resilient and quality infrastructure investment plans into their national sustainable development strategies, while also strengthening their domestic enabling environments, and calls upon the international community to provide technical support to landlocked developing countries to translate plans into concrete project pipelines, as well as support for individual implementable projects, including for feasibility studies, the negotiation of complex contracts and project management;

17. *Encourages* multilateral development banks, including regional banks, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to address gaps in trade, transport and transit-related regional infrastructure, including by completing missing links connecting, inter alia, landlocked developing countries within regional networks;

18. *Underlines* that greater integration of landlocked developing countries into world trade and global value chains is vital for increasing their competitiveness and diversification and ensuring their economic development;

19. *Welcomes* the elements included in the "Nairobi Package" of the Tenth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, and invites members of the World Trade Organization to expeditiously ratify the Agreement on Trade Facilitation;

20. *Stresses* the importance, for the economic development of landlocked developing countries, of their increased participation in the multilateral trading system;

21. *Recognizes* that services sectors are important enablers of trade in goods and effective participation in international trade and global value chains, that efficient services sectors enhance productivity, reduce the cost of doing business and promote job creation and that landlocked developing countries should be supported so as to increase the share of services in their economies and exports, including through enabling policies;

22. *Stresses* that improved trade facilitation, including through further streamlining and harmonization of customs and transit procedures and formalities and transparent and efficient border management and coordination of agencies involved in border clearance, would help landlocked developing countries to enhance the competitiveness of their export products and services;

23. *Also stresses* the need to promote meaningful regional integration to encompass cooperation among countries in a broader range of areas than just trade and trade facilitation, including investment, research and development and policies aimed at accelerating regional industrial development and regional connectivity, that this approach is aimed at fostering structural change and economic growth in landlocked developing countries as a goal, and also as a means of collectively linking regions to global markets, that this would enhance competitiveness and help to maximize benefits from globalization and that documentation and the sharing and dissemination of best practices are important to allow cooperating partners to benefit from each other's experience;

24. *Recognizes* that the economies of many landlocked developing countries are still reliant on a few export commodities, which often have low value addition, stresses the need for renewed and strengthened partnerships for development to support landlocked developing countries in diversifying their economic base and enhancing value addition to their exports by entering and moving up global value chains through the development of their productive capacities, including through private sector involvement, and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, with a view to increasing the competitiveness of the products of landlocked developing countries in export markets, and welcomes the establishment of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;[15]

25. *Underlines* that, in order for landlocked developing countries to fully utilize their export and trade potential, it is important to undertake measures that promote structural economic transformation capable of reducing the negative impact of their geographical disadvantages and external shocks, creating jobs and ultimately leading to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions and inclusive and sustainable growth and development, stresses that each landlocked developing country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and in this regard stresses that the national development efforts of landlocked developing countries need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment;

26. *Recognizes* that landlocked developing countries remain highly vulnerable to external economic shocks and to the multiple other challenges faced by the international community;

[15] Resolution 69/313, annex, para. 123.

27. *Also recognizes* the adverse impacts of climate change, land degradation, desertification, deforestation, floods, including glacial lake outburst floods, and droughts on the economies of landlocked developing countries, recognizes the potential benefits of mutually addressing these challenges, and calls upon the international community to continue to support the efforts of landlocked developing countries to address these challenges in an integrated manner, as appropriate;

28. *Further recognizes* that landlocked developing countries are vulnerable to climate change, which is exacerbating desertification and land degradation, and that they remain negatively affected by desertification, land degradation and drought;

29. *Urges* those landlocked developing countries that have not yet done so to ratify, at their earliest convenience, the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries, in order to fully operationalize the think tank;

30. *Recognizes* that landlocked developing countries and their transit country neighbours need to effectively mobilize adequate domestic and external resources for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, reaffirms that, for all countries, public policies and the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, underscored by the principle of national ownership, are central to the common pursuit of sustainable development, including the implementation of the Programme of Action, and also recognizes that international public finance plays an important role in complementing those efforts, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources;

31. *Underlines* the critical role of the private sector, including through foreign direct investment, in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

32. *Also underlines* the prominent role that foreign direct investment plays in accelerating development and poverty reduction through employment, the transfer of managerial and technological know-how and non-debt-creating flows of capital, recognizes the considerable role and potential of private sector involvement in infrastructure development for transport, telecommunications and utilities for landlocked developing countries, encourages Member States to facilitate foreign direct investment flows to landlocked developing countries in this regard, and calls upon landlocked and transit developing countries to promote an enabling environment to attract foreign direct investment and private sector involvement;

33. *Reiterates* that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments remains crucial, with providers of official development assistance reaffirming their respective commitments;

34. *Invites* developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

35. *Calls upon* development partners to effectively implement the Aid for Trade initiative, giving adequate consideration to the special needs and requirements of landlocked developing countries, including capacity-building for the formulation of trade policies, participation in trade negotiations and the implementation of trade facilitation measures, as well as the diversification of export products;

36. *Calls upon* relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and invites international organizations such as the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Trade Organization, the World Customs Organization, the Common Fund for Commodities, regional economic integration organizations and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their programmes of work, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, and to support landlocked and transit developing countries in their implementation of the Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner;

37. *Underlines* the importance of increasing the availability and use of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by sex, age, geography, income, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, stresses the need to enhance capacity-building support for developing countries, including landlocked developing countries, for this purpose, and reaffirms the commitment to strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data;

38. *Urges* that coherent and effective linkages be made between the implementation, follow-up and review arrangements for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and those of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including the Vienna Programme of Action;

39. *Underlines* the importance of the successful implementation of, follow-up to and review of the Vienna Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

40. *Stresses* the importance of universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy services, and welcomes the holding of the high-level seminar on accelerating sustainable energy for all in landlocked developing countries through innovative partnerships in Vienna on 24 and 25 October 2016;

41. *Also stresses* that, in accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States should continue to ensure the coordinated follow-up to, effective monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and undertake advocacy efforts at the national, regional and global levels;

42. *Strongly encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute in a timely manner to the Trust Fund in Support of Activities Undertaken by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to support the implementation of, follow-up to and monitoring of the Vienna Programme of Action;

43. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-second session, under the item entitled "Groups of countries in special situations", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries", unless otherwise agreed.